

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 09ISLAMABAD177, THE WAY FORWARD FOR PAKISTAN'S F-16 PROGRAM

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09ISLAMABAD177**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">09ISLAMABAD177</a>	<a href="#">2009-01-28 08:29</a>	<a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a>	<a href="#">SECRET</a>	<a href="#">Embassy Islamabad</a>

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.ndtv.com/video/player/india-decides-9-pm/pak-feared-indian-armys-cold-start-wikileaks/201113>

VZCZCXRO6640  
PP RUEHLH RUEHPW  
DE RUEHIL #0177/01 0280829  
ZNY SSSSS ZZH  
P 280829Z JAN 09  
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1180  
INFO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 9695  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 4329  
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 0935  
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 6648  
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 5534  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHWSMRC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 04 ISLAMABAD 000177

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/11/2019  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [MARR](#) [PK](#)  
SUBJECT: THE WAY FORWARD FOR PAKISTAN'S F-16 PROGRAM

Classified By: Anne W. Patterson for reasons 1.4 (b) (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: Embassy requests that a small interagency team of decision makers visit Islamabad to chart a financial and technical way for  
[1](#)2. (C) What is broadly referred to as the "F-16 case" is really three individual cases: (1) a Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program purchase  
[1](#)3. (C) Contrary to the assumptions of many in Congress, the U.S. originally was paying less than ten percent in FMF to support the MLU progra  
[1](#)4. (C) If the U.S. should decide to pay for the new F-16s or increase U.S.-funded FMF support for the upgraded aircraft, we can call the tur  
Background  
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[1](#)5. (C) Following a history that includes three wars and numerous military engagements with New Delhi, the Pakistan military's doctrine and te  
[1](#)6. (C) However, the Pakistani military now faces a growing extremist militancy on its western border with Afghanistan, and it is using F-16s  
[1](#)7. (C) When Pressler Amendment sanctions were imposed in 1990 after Pakistan's nuclear tests, the U.S. could not legally deliver 28 F-16 air  
[1](#)8. (C) Walking away from this symbol of renewed post-9/11 cooperation would cause enormous political consequences. It also would make it mor  
Case Specifics  
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[1](#)9. (C) There are three related cases in the current program:  
--New Aircraft. In 2006, the GOP signed a five year contract to purchase 18 new Block 52 aircraft. The first delivery is scheduled for 2010.  
Finance Minister Tareen confirmed to Ambassador January 28 that Pakistan would make the overdue December payment "soon," but he asked for three  
--Excess Defense Articles Aircraft and Mid-Life Upgrade. In 2005, the U.S. agreed to give Pakistan 14 used U.S. older type F-16s, adding to th  
The U.S. agreed to assist the upgrade through U.S.-funded FMF. To date, we have provided \$334 million in three installments, the first (\$108 m  
Although the GOP assured Congress in a letter, dated October 13, 2008, that it would pay for the rest of the program using national funds, Air  
--Munitions Case. This is a \$641 million FMS case which includes purchases of 500 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAMS), 750 Mar  
[1](#)10. (S) Still pending is approval/implementation on three technology transfer issues.  
--Digital Radio Frequency Memory capability. Pakistan awaits final National Defense Policy Committee (NDPC) approval to equip Pakistani F-16s w  
--Upgrade Installation. Pending is approval for Pakistani technicians to participate in the MLU kit installation at TAI in Turkey. There has  
--Base Restrictions. Both the new and MLU F-16s are subject to Pakistan's compliance with security restrictions that demand a separate base ar

RECOMMENDATIONS  
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[1](#)11. (C) Embassy requests that a small interagency team of decision makers visit Islamabad to chart a financial and technical way forward on t  
[1](#)12. (C) After the 2005 earthquake, the GOP cut back on its acquisition of F-16s, so there is precedent for altering the program due to econon  
[1](#)13. (C) Given the broad range of options being discussed in Washington, post does not yet have a final recommendation on the way forward. At  
PATTERSON